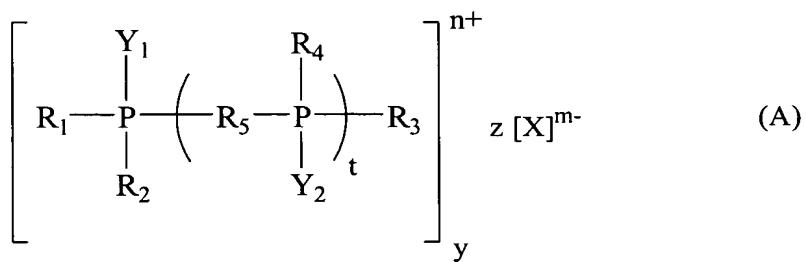


**SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS**

Please rewrite the paragraph at page 6, line 10 to page 7, line 10 as follows:

In accordance with one aspect of the invention there is provided a method of bleaching and brightness stabilization of a lignocellulosic material comprising treating the lignocellulosic material with a water-soluble phosphine or phosphonium compound of formula (A):



wherein t is zero or 1; when t = 0,  $\text{R}_4\text{R}_5\text{PY}_2$  is absent and  $\text{R}_3$  is bonded to the P of the  $\text{R}_1\text{R}_2\text{PY}_1$  group;  $\text{R}_5$  is absent, an alkylene group  $(\text{CH}_2)_s$  ( $s = 1$  to 12) interrupted by 0 to 6 oxygen (O) atoms or secondary amino ( $\text{NR}'$ ) groups, and/or substituted by a zero to 2s number of a hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, thio, thioether, amino, ester, amide, carboxyl and/or carboxylate groups, or a phenylene group substituted by a zero to 4 number of a hydroxyl, alkyl, aryl, thio, thioether, amino, ester, amide, carboxyl, carboxylate, and/or sulfonate groups; or preferably  $\text{R}_5$  is an alkylene group  $(\text{CH}_2)_s$  ( $s = 1$  to 4) where the carbon chain is optionally interrupted by one or two oxygen (O) atom(s);  $\text{Y}_1$  and  $\text{Y}_2$  are both present or both absent, provided that when  $\text{Y}_1$  and  $\text{Y}_2$  are both absent,  $y = 1$ ,  $n = z = m = 0$  and  $\text{X}$  is absent;

wherein when  $\text{Y}_1$  and  $\text{Y}_2$  are both absent,  $y = 1$ ,  $n = z = m = 0$ , and  $\text{X}$  is absent,  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$ , or  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$ ,  $\text{R}_4$  and  $\text{R}_5$  groups are collectively selected such that the molecule has an overall solubility of at least 0.01 g/L;  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$  and  $\text{R}_3$ , or  $\text{R}_1$ ,  $\text{R}_2$ ,  $\text{R}_3$  and  $\text{R}_4$  are independently selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted linear or branched alkyl groups, or optionally substituted aryl groups, the optional substitution referring to the presence of substituents selected from ether, amino, hydroxy, ester, thioether, amide, carbonyl, carboxyl, and carboxylate moieties.